



## South Dakota Department of Veterans Affairs

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Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veterans Home

March 11, 2021

Dear Resident and/or Resident Representative,

We are happy to announce that we have updated our visit guidelines for the South Dakota Veterans Home. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has worked with the CDC to provide new guidance for Long Term Care Centers. Based on these new guidelines SDVH will begin allowing scheduled visits that will occur in resident rooms **beginning Monday, March 15th**. We highly recommend that visitors (if eligible) are vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to visiting.

All visitors will be screened and must follow all core principles of infection prevention as follows:

- Screening of all who enter the facility for signs and symptoms of COVID-19 (e.g., temperature checks, questions about and observations of signs or symptoms), and denial of entry of those with signs or symptoms or those who have had close contact with someone with COVID-19 infection in the prior 14 days (regardless of the visitor's vaccination status)
- Visitor(s) must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visits.
- Visitor(s) must wear a face covering or mask (covering mouth and nose) during the entire visit.
- Social distancing at least six (6) feet between persons
- Instructional signage throughout the facility and proper visitor education on COVID19 signs and symptoms, infection control precautions, other applicable facility practices

All visits **must be scheduled in advance**. To make an appointment for a visit, please call Lanae Romey at 605-745-5127 extension 1500116. When making the appointment, you will be asked to provide: name(s) of visitor(s), relationship to resident, and a phone number. You will also be asked to confirm your understanding of the visitor guidelines on the following page.

The safety and well-being of our residents and staff remains our top priority, we ask that you review page 2 carefully, so you are fully aware of guidelines during visit. *If visitation guidelines are NOT followed, please note you will be immediately escorted out of facility.* We will continue to review SD Dept. of Health and CDC updates and will notify you of any further policy changes.

Sincerely,

Rachelle Butler, RN/Infection Preventionist

605.745.5127 | [stateveteranshome.sd.gov](http://stateveteranshome.sd.gov)  
2500 Minnekahta Avenue  
Hot Springs, SD 57747

## **VISITOR GUIDELINES**

- Approved visiting time slots are below. Four (4) total visits can be booked at each time slot:
    - Monday–Friday: 9:45–10:45 am; 12:30–1:30 pm; 2:30–3:30 pm; 3:45–4:45 pm
    - Sunday\*: 1:00–2:00 pm; 2:15–3:15 pm; 3:30 pm–4:30 pm
- \*Please note, the Sunday hours are very limited and are intended for those who absolutely cannot visit during the week.
- **Visit must be scheduled prior to arrival. No exceptions.**
    - Call Lanae at 605-745-5127 ext. 1500116 to schedule a visit. We appreciate 24 hours notice.
  - Only two (2) visitors at a time per resident.
  - Visit duration is 60 minutes (to maintain core principles of infection prevention in the facility and allow access for all residents to have visits we must limit duration of visit)
  - Visitor(s) must wear a face covering or face mask during the entire visit. Please bring your own face mask if you have one. If you do not have a face mask, the facility will supply you with one upon arrival.
    - Please note this means you may **not** eat with the resident.
  - Visitor(s) must use alcohol-based hand rub before and after visits.
  - Visitor(s) will be escorted by SDVH staff to residents' room and escorted from residents' room to exit when visit is complete.
  - Visitor(s) must remain in their loved one's room for entire visit (may not be wandering out of resident's room during visit).
  - Visitors with children must be able to manage them, and the child(ren) must be able to wear a face mask.
  - Visitor(s) must sign in and provide contact information.
  - Visitor(s) must not have signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (including fever at time of visit).
  - Visitor(s) may bring single serving, commercially packaged food items to residents during visits. This includes carry out items from local restaurants (still in restaurant packaging, candy bars, pre-packaged muffin from store, etc.).
  - Physical contact – below is the exact guideline from CMS:
    - “We also acknowledge that there is no substitute for physical contact, such as the warm embrace between a resident and their loved one. Therefore, **if the resident is fully vaccinated**, they can choose to have close contact (including touch) with their visitor while wearing a well-fitting face mask and performing hand-hygiene before and after. Regardless, visitors should physically distance from other residents and staff in the facility.”
  - Restrooms will be available in main lobby. Only one individual may be in the restroom at a time. We highly encourage using the restroom prior to arriving at the facility.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The availability of these visits is subject to change at any time based on recommendations from local, state and national officials. If a case of COVID-19 were to occur at the home visits will be suspended for at least a week, and you would receive notification from SDVH to cancel/reschedule the visit. Some rescheduled visits may be reduced to 30 minutes in order to accommodate all those needing to reschedule.